

## Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 176516

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM FROM ANKARA DATED JULY 10, 1978  
SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ATHENS, BONN, LONDON, NICOSIA,  
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S E C R E T ANKARA 5041

EXDIS

MIL ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PEPR, TU, GR

SUBJ: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON GREEK AND TURKISH SECGENS MEETING

REF: ANKARA 4978 (DTG 070820Z JUL 78)

SUMMARY: MFA OFFICIAL REPORTS THAT GREEK AND TURKISH

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NEGOTIATORS DID NOT PRESENT DRAFT NON-AGGRESSION AGREEMENTS.  
TURKS SUGGESTED THAT THE MORE COMPREHENSIVE AGREEMENT  
THEY PREFER BE MODELED ON THE BILATERAL GREEK/TURKISH  
TREATY OF 1930. HE CONFIRMED THAT SOME PROGRESS WAS  
MADE ON THE FIR AND THAT THE TWO SIDES REMAIN FAR APART  
ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF. HE INDICATED THAT TURKS WOULD  
BE WILLING TO SIGN A POLITICAL DOCUMENT IN THE ABSENCE

OF FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE TWO AEGEAN QUESTIONS. END  
SUMMARY.

1. DURING CALL JULY 7 MFA DIRECTOR FOR GREEK/CYPRUS AFFAIRS  
INAL BATU PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THE SECGENS'  
MEETINGS JULY 4-5 IN WHICH HE PARTICIPATED. IN TERMS OF  
ATMOSPHERICS, BATU CONFIRMED THAT THE TURKS HAD BEEN  
VERY PLEASED WITH THE BUSINESSLIKE AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH  
OF THE GREEK DELEGATION. THE MEETING WITH ECEVIT HAD GONE  
PARTICULARLY WELL. ECEVIT HAD BEEN IMPRESSED WITH  
THEODOROPOULOS, WHO HAD BEEN QUITE EFFUSIVE IN EXPRESSING  
KARAMANLIS' CONFIDENCE IN AND RESPECTFOR ECEVIT. THE  
LATTER RESPONDED IN KIND.

2. CONTRARY TO THE IMPRESSION LEFT BY ELEKDAG (REFTEL),  
BATU SAID THE GREEKS HAD NOT PRESENTED A DRAFT NON-  
AGGRESSION TREATY BUT HAD DESCRIBED IN SOME DETAIL THEIR IDEAS.  
THEIR  
CONCEPT WAS A VERY SHORT DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD INCLUDE A  
DECLARATION OF PEACEFUL INTENT AND PROVIDE FOR EXCHANGES OF  
MILITARY INFORMATION. THE TURKISH SIDE RESPONDED THAT THEY  
HAD IN MIND A MORE COMPREHENSIVE DOCUMENT WHICH WOULD  
LARGELY BE A REQORKING OF THE 1930 BILATERAL GREEK/TURKISH  
TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, NEUTRALITY, CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION.  
BATU DOES NOT EXPECT THAT THERE WILL BE ANY FURTHER  
EXCHANGES ON THIS SUBJECT UNTIL THE SECGENS MEET IN  
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SEPTEMBER. HE THINKS THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WILL BE  
GETTING TOGETHER TO SEE IF THEY CAN "SHORTEN" THEIR LIST OF  
ITEMS TO BE COVERED IN SUCH AN AGREEMENT, AND HE HOPES  
THAT THE GREEK SIDE WILL GIVE SOME THOUGHT TO "LENGTHENING"  
ITS LIST.

3. BATU SAID THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT INSIST ON A COMPRE-  
HENSIVE AGREEMENT COVERING ALL OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES.  
IT WOULD BE ENOUGH IF THE GREEKS AGREE NOT TO MAKE ANY  
UNILATERAL CHANGES IN THE PRESENT SIX MILE TERRITORIAL SEA,  
IN EXCHANGE FOR WHICH TURKEY WOULD GUARANTEE THE PRESENT  
BORDERS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN RESPONSE TO A  
QUESTION, HE SPECIFICALLY SAID THAT SUCH A DOCUMENT COULD  
BE SIGNED IN THE ABSENCE OF AGREEMENT ON THE FIR AND THE  
CONTINENTAL SHELF.

4. ON THE FIR ISSUE, ELKDAG AND THEODOROPOULOS HAD  
PRIVATELY WORKED OUT GUIDELINES FOR THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH  
WILL TAKE PLACE AMONG THE EXPERTS. THEY DIVIDED THE ISSUES  
INTO THREE SEGMENTS:

A. TECHNICAL ISSUES. THESE INCLUDED THE QUESTIONS OF AIR

CORRIDORS AND THE AREA AROUND LEMNOS. REGARDING THE LATTER ISSUE, BATU SAID THAT AT MONTREUX KARAMANLIS HAD ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE GREEKS HAD GONE TOO FAR IN ESTABLISHING THE AIR CONTROL ZONE AROUND LEMNOS. KARAMANLIS REPORTEDLY PROMISED THAT THIS MATTER COULD BE REMEDIED. THE EXPETRS WOULD MEET WITH THIS UNDERSTANDING IN MIND. (BATU SAID THAT ELKDG'S COMMENT (REFTEL) REGARDING THE GREEK "UNILATERAL 3,000 SQUARE MILE EXTENSION OF AIRSPACE" WAS A REFERENCE TO THE AIR CONTROL ZONE AROUND LEMNOS.)

B. SECURITY QUESTIONS. THE GREEKS SUGGESTED THAT THE NATO AIR DEFENSE CROSSTELL SYSTEM COULD BE BILATERALLY APPLIED BY BOTH COUNTRIES IN ORDER TO EASE THE SECURITY REQUIREMENTS OF EACH. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE EXPERTS WOULD DISCUSS THIS QUESTION.

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C. THE GREEK CLAIM TO A 10-MILE AIRSPACE. BATU CONFIRMED THAT ELEKDG HAD TAKEN A VERY STRONG LINE ON THIS MATTER. HE SAID THE TURKS ARE WORRIED THAT THE GREEKS ARE TRYING TO SET UP A LINKAGE BETWEEN THE AIRSPACE AND TERRITORIAL SEA ISSUES AND THAT AT SOME POINT, THE GREEKS MIGHT OFFER TO TRADE TURKISH ACCEPTANCE OF A 10-MILE AIRSPACE IN RETURN FOR GREEK AGREEMENT TO REDUCE ITS TERRITORIAL SEA CLAIM FROM 12 ILES TO 10 MILES. BATU SAID ELEKDG HAD MADE IT CLEAR THAT TURKEY WOULD NOT ALLOW ANY SUCH LINKAGE BETWEEN THESE TWO QUESTIONS.

5. THE TURKS FOUND THE GREEKS "VERY CONCILIATORY" ON THE FIRST TWO POINTS ABOVE. TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO ATHENS TEZEL LATER TOLD BATU THAT HE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO GET EXPERT DISCUSSIONS ON THE FIR QUESTION UNDERWAY BY THE END OF THIS MONTH.

6. APPARENTLY SIMILAR PROGRESS WAS NOT MADE ON THE CONTINENTAL SHELF ISSUE. BATU SAID HE "GOT TIRED" OF LISTENING TO THE TWO SIDES REITERATE THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITIONS. NONETHELESS THEY HAD AGREED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD RESUME BEFORE THE SECGENS MET AGAIN. BATU THOUGHT THAT BILGE AND TZOUNIS WOULD AGAIN BE THE LIKELY INTERLOCUTORS, THOUGH THIS WILL BE FIXED LATER THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS.

7. IN LINE WITH AN EARLIER DISCUSSION WITH BATU ON POSSIBLE "CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES", BATU SAID ECEVIT HAD RAISED THE POSSIBILITY OF A MEETING OR CONFERENCE BETWEEN GREEK AND TURKISH JOURNALISTS. THIS IDEA APPARENTLY HAD BEEN ADVANCED JOINTLY EARLIER THIS YEAR BY MILLIYET COLUMNIST ABDI IPEKCI AND KATHIMERINI COLUMNIST GEORGE DROSSOS BUT FOR SOME REASON HAD BEEN SIDETRACKED.

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THEODOROPOULOS HAD ENTHUSIASTICALLY WELCOMED THE IDEA AND PROMISED TO RESPOND WITH GREEK IDEAS. ALONG THE SAME LINES, BATU SAID THE TURKISH MFA HAS JUST RECEIVED A RECOMMENDATION FROM NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS THAT GREECE AND TURKEY ESTABLISH A PERMANENT INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD MEET ALTERNATIVELY IN THE TWO CAPITALS TO DISCUSS COMMON PROBLEMS. BATU THOUGHT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME THIS IDEA AND HOPED TO BE ABLE SHORTLY TO COMMUNICATE TURKISH INTEREST AND APPROVAL TO ATHENS.

8. BATU CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS OR MINORITY QUESTIONS. ASKED WHETHER GREEK REINTEGRATION INTO NATO HAD COME UP, BATU SAID IT HAD NOT.

9. GREEK EMBASSY FIRST SECRETARY KATSAREAS JULY 7 DESCRIBED THE ATMOSPHERICS OF THE MEETINGS IN SIMILAR TONES AS THOSE OF BATU AND ELEKDAG. HE ALSO USED THE WORDS "CONSTRUCTIVE AND BUSINESSLIKE" TO DESCRIBE THE CONDUCT OF THE TURKISH DELEGATION. HE CHARACTERIZED THE RESULTS OF THE DISCUSSIONS AS LARGELY "PROCEDURAL", AND CONFIRMED THAT NEITHER SIDE TABLED A DRAFT DOCUMENT OR TREATY REGARDING NON-AGGRESSION AND FRIENDSHIP. WHILE HE DID NOT GO INTO THE SAME DETAIL, HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE TALKS WAS NOT AT VARIANCE FROM THAT WHICH WE HAVE RECEIVED FROM THE TURKS. REGARDING THE CONTINENTAL SHELF AND TERRITORIAL SEA ISSUE, KATSAREAS SAID THE GREEK DELEGATION HAD REITERATED ITS POSITION THAT THE PARTIES SHOULD HAVE RECOURSE TO THE WORLD COURT IF UNABLE TO REACH AGREEMENT THROUGH BILATERAL TALKS. THE TURKISH DELEGATION HAD REITERATED ITS DESIRES TO SETTLE THE ISSUE THROUGH BILATERAL TALKS BUT HAD NOT SPECIFICALLY RULED OUT AN EVENTUAL RECOURSE TO THE COURT.

10. COMMENT: BATU'S EXPRESSION OF TURKISH WILLINGNESS TO SIGN A POLITICAL AGREEMENT IN THE ABSENCE OF FINAL AGREEMENT ON THE TWO AEGEAN QUESTIONS SEEMS INCONSISTENT WITH THE  
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LINKAGE ESTABLISHED IN POINT FOUR OF THE FIVE-POINT TURKISH "PROGRAM FOR PEACE" DESCRIBED BY ELKDAG (REFTEL). WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT ELKDAG ONLY SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS ON THESE QUESTIONS WOULD PROCEED SIMULTANEOUSLY, NOT THAT FINAL AGREEMENT MUST BE ACHIEVED SIMULTANEOUSLY. ON THE OTHER HAND, BATU TENDS IN GENERAL TO GIVE THE MOST POSITIVE CONSTRUCTION POSSIBLE TO TURKISH POSITIONS, AND THE TURKS

THEMSELVES MAY NOT KNOW IN ADVANCE WHETHER THEY WOULD BE  
WILLING, IN THE END, TO SEPARATE THE ISSUES. WE EXPECT  
THAT ELEKDAG HAS ACCURATELY DESCRIBED THE TURKISH NEGOTIATING  
POSITION, AND THAT THEY WILL ATTEMPT TO MAINTAIN LINKAGE AMONG  
THE THREE ISSUES WHEN THE SECGENS NEXT MEET. DILLON UNQUOTE  
CHRISTOPHER

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